

**PARKS, RECREATION, AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY  
COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2015  
DPW OPERATIONS CENTER  
2351 SPRINGBROOK COURT, BELOIT, WI 53511**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chad Larson Carl Lange, Carol Mankiewicz, Mark Preuschl,  
Anthony Stewart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sheila DeForest, Jeff Johnson, Therese Oldenburg

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Brian Ramsey, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Greg Boysen, Public Works Director

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mark Preuschl at 6:33 p.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> AND JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 MEETING**

Chad Larson made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None

**OLD BUSINESS-**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS – ACTION REPORT ITEM**

- A. Review and consideration of the proposed new Playground Equipment scheduled for purchase and installation in Vernon Park.** Five separate vendors submitted a total of seven proposals which have been reviewed and evaluated by our Playground Committee in determining the two best proposals. The Public Playground Meeting was scheduled and held on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 in Vernon Park at 6:00 pm. A total of over 20 members of the public attended the presentation with a total of twelve voting and selecting the proposal submitted by MN/WI playgrounds. At the meeting their preference was for green and blue colors and the vote was split 6/6. The playground will be installed by no later than the end of October. Carl Lange made a motion to accept the proposal as presented by MN/WI Playgrounds for Vernon Park, and the alternate color scheme as presented in rendering #2 seconded by Chad Larson. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Review and consideration of a proposal from the Rock County Historical Society to allow them to place small Geocaches within selected parks sites.** The Rock County Historical Society introduces their newly proposed program, “Cache Quest”. They want to get people out and about in Rock County. Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity where a GPS receiver or mobile device and other techniques to hide and seek containers, call “geocaches” anywhere in the world. Geocaching is a treasure-hunting game that has become very popular and is enjoyed by all ages. A complete list of where the Geocaches would be located has been included. The participants within this program would still have to comply with all park rules and regulation. As long as we are aware of where all the Geocaches are and they aren’t on any playgrounds, the request will be supported. Char Larson made a motion to support the request as submitted by the Rock County Historical Society as long as they comply with Park Rules & Regulations seconded by Carol Mankiewicz. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Review and consideration of naming the newly acquired Girls Scout building in Big Hill Park.** As of June 26, 2015, the City of Beloit purchased the former Girl Scout building in Big Hill Park. Currently we have two long-term tenants that will be sharing this space. The Welty Environmental Center is leasing approximately 2,000 SF on the main level and the Beloit Police Department is leasing approximately 250 SF in the lower level of the building. We have currently been referring to it as the Big Hill Center but it needs to be officially named in accordance to the Administrative Policy & Guidelines for Naming of Parks & Recreational Facilities. The building can always be renamed later but for now we want to label it. Mark Preuschl made a motion to refer to this facility as the Big Hill Center and acquire signage for appropriate identification seconded by Anthony Stewart. Motion passed unanimously.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Attached for Committee review.

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS**

- Anthony Stewart- Would like to know if we could put a drinking fountain in the dog park for the dogs and one for their owners because it is so hot in the summer. Also what would it take to put swing in Brown-Hatchett Park? Brian explained the playground replacement schedule that we have in place. The dog park is designed as a detention pond so we can't put a water fountain inside of that. The closest place would have to be where the pathway is to walk to the park itself. The cost to install would also be extremely expensive in order to run a water line.
- Carl Lange- Events that he is involved is consist of the Night Run this Friday at Leeson Park at 7pm. He will be trying out the High Schools timing software. On August 29<sup>th</sup> the Ride Across Wisconsin will be held.
- Carol Mankiewicz- Has started a big turtle project. At the golf course, Mark Young has been very helpful for logistics. Won't be marking the turtles at the course but the ones at Harpers Prairie will be. Likes to trap, mark, and measure the turtles. At Harpers Prairie there is a lot of wild parsnip. Brian stated that we won't be able to do anything about that until when a controlled burn can be executed.
- Mark Preuschl- The entrances gates at Vernon Park are awful. There is also a pipe sticking up out of the ground. Can we dress it up a little bit? It's laid out like Summit Park. Why haven't we done anything about tennis courts that are still there? Brian explained that's why we have a master planning for parks as well as CIP plans. Mark would like to modify and make them look nicer sooner than the master plan scheduled.
- Chad Larson- Sonya Baden and Matt did a good job with the Kubb tournament that was held. It's a cross between horse shoes and chess. They had about 20 teams this year. Beloit hockey will be selling stuff during the Dirty Dash. October 12, will be the first day of ice skating. Trying to get more kids out to skate. Learn to skate dates will be advertised soon with radio ads, TV, billboards and posters.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chad Larson made a motion for adjournment; seconded by Anthony Stewart. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Travia Foy.